

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claim 1 has been amended to improve readability. Claim 4 has been amended to substitute a standard term of “charge-coupled”. Claims 2, 3 and 5-11 remain pending in the application. Claim 12 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 13 and 14 are newly added. All claim amendments are supported by the specification and drawings. No new matter is introduced by this Amendment

Claims 1-12 are objected to because of informalities. The “image reading device” is substituted in claim 1. The standard term of “charge-coupled” in claim 4 is corrected. Since claim 12 is canceled, the objection is therefore moot.

Claims 1-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,268,599 to Chen et al. The rejection is respectfully traversed for the reason that Chen et al. fails to disclose or teach the claimed invention.

The claimed invention is directed to a scanner utilizing a light interference module (containing such as a clip, a plate, a knob or a push-rod) to obstruct the light path in order to segmentalize the light into different segments. Different segments of light (or segmentalized light) represent different triggering signals to the scanner. In this case, the traditional switches or the similar kinds of push buttons to control the scanner may be saved. By the interference of the light path, a predetermined function is able to be triggered and executed. Such as, if the segments of a1 to a5 are masked or interfered, the scanner will respond by processes of copying. If the segments a5 to a50 are masked or interfered, a corresponding faxing or scanning-then-email procedure will be activated (see Figure 6 and page 8, lines 9-27).

U.S. Patent 6,268,599 to Chen et al. is directed to an optical sensor switch system, which utilizes a switch to change the light intensity in order to activate a particular function. Especially, Chen et al. employs the shuttering to control on/off of the optical sensor switch. There are two types of image sensors utilized in Chen et al. They are the contact image sensor 56A (Figure 5A), 76A (Figure 7A) and the charge-coupled device CCD 56B (Figure 5B), 66B (Figure 6B), 76B (Figure 7B). All the image sensors in Chen et al. provide the switching function in correspondence to a different amount of radiance (see column 3, lines 14-18). By employing different types and arrangements of the push-rod 64, or the knob 74, the radiance of light is

controlled to generate on the image sensor. Thus, the switching function is achieved (see column 3, lines 10-45).

However, Chen et al. do not teach or disclose to use the segmentalized light to activate different functions. Chen et al. uses the radiance of light to produce different signals of operation. Chen et al. discloses that “different amount of radiance produces a difference signal for controlling a particular designated function” (column 3, lines 15-16). This is a major difference between the claimed invention and the Chen et al. Though Chen et al. disclosed that “[t]he pixels of the panel are divided into different sections, each designated to a particular function for the scanner” (see abstract of Chen et al.) The sections of Chen et al. are directed to the arrangement of push-buttons 941, 942, 944 and 945 shown in Figure 9 and seen in column 4, lines 1-7. The sections of push-buttons of Chen et al. are divided on the panel of a scanner machine. The sections of Chen et al. are different from the segmental triggering functions of the claimed invention. The light of the claimed invention is obstructed by the light interfering module and therefore becomes a segmentalized light to activate different procedures corresponding to the segment in which it is generated. In other words, the segmentalized light of the claimed invention activates a designated function when the segmentalized light is projected on the image sensor.

In view of the above and with all due respect, Applicant traverses the rejection based on the fact that Chen et al. fails teach or disclose the claimed invention. As recited in claim 1, Chen et al. neither teaches nor discloses the claimed invention, as of “said light interference module interferes said light into said image sensor by plural segments which reflect different functions and thus triggers the image reading device to perform a predetermined procedure by each said segment.” Claim 1 is therefore not anticipated by Chen et al. and claim 1 is patentable.

Due to the dependency on patentable independent claim 1, claims 2-11 are patentable over Chen et al.

Independent claims 13 and 14 are newly added to particularly point out the mechanism of obstructing light into segmental light, and contain patentable subjects as above-mentioned. Claims 13 and 14 are patentable with all due respect.

For the reasons stated above, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 1, 13 and 14 along with dependent claims thereon are distinguishable over the applied art, and are not disclosed, or taught, or suggested by the cited art. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections

of the pending claims is respectfully requested. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited and appreciated.

Should the Examiner believe anything further is desirable in order to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 07-1337 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

LOWE HAUPTMAN GILMAN & BERNER, LLP



Randy A. Noranbrock for
Registration No. 42,940

Kenneth M. Berner
Registration No. 37,093

Customer Number: 22429
1700 Diagonal Road, Suite 300
Alexandria, Virginia 22314
(703) 684-1111
(703) 518-5499 Facsimile
Date: June 24, 2004